

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 283008

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

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E.O.: 11652 N/A

TAGS: EEWT, OVIP, OTRA (RICHARDSON, ELLIOT L.)

SUBJECT: COMMERCE SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S VISIT TO
BUDAPEST - QUESTIONS FOR HUNGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

REF: BUDAPEST 3855

1. PER REQUEST REFTTEL, SECRETARY RICHARDSON WOULD BE
INTERESTED IN ANSWERS TO FOLLOWING TYPE QUESTIONS DURING
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AT HUNGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

--- A. WHAT ARE THE SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE
---- HUNGARIAN ECONOMIC-DECISION MAKING PROCESS?

----B. HOW HAS THE NEM ADJUSTED TO WORLD INFLATION
----AND THE DOWNTURN OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN THE WEST?

---- C. HOW GREAT A ROLE HAVE SUBSIDIES PLAYED IN
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PAGE 02 STATE 283008

---- HUNGARIAN EFFORTS TO INSULATE ITS ECONOMY FROM

---- THE EFFECTS OF RECESSION IN THE WEST? IF SUB-
---- SIDIES AND SIMILAR DIRECT ECONOMIC CONTROLS HAVE
---- BEEN USED EXTENSIVELY, HOW HAVE THESE BEEN RE-
---- CONCILED WITH THE GOALS OF GREATER EFFICIENCY
---- AND PROFITABILITY?

--- D. WHAT CRITERIA DO THE STATE BANKS USE IN

--- DISBURSING INVESTMENT FUNDS? DO THE CRITERIA DIFFER
--- WITH RESPECT TO PRIVATE ARTISANS?

--- E. WHAT MECHANISMS ARE AVAILABLE TO ENCOURAGE
---- INDUSTRY TO MOVE TO THE ECONOMICALLY LESS DEVELOPED
---- REGIONS OF HUNGARY? HAS HUNGARY ATTEMPTED TO
---- ACHIEVE SOME REGIONAL BALANCE WITH RESPECT TO STATE
---- INVESTMENT FUNDS? IF SO, HAVE THERE BEEN ANY MAJOR
--- OBSTACLES?

---- F. EXPLAIN BRIEFLY THE HUNGARIAN PRICE
---- MECHANISMS. HOW HAVE THESE MECHANISMS BEEN
---- AFFECTED BY THE CHANGES IN THE CMEA PRICE
---- MECHANISMS?

2. ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS EMBASSY WISHES TO ADD WILL
BE APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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